

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7303

BILL NUMBER: HB 1639

DATE PREPARED: Feb 15, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Feb 14, 2001

SUBJECT: Posting Notice of Voter Rights at the Polls.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill requires the Election Commission to prescribe a statement of the rights of a voter in Indiana. It also specifies the kind of information that the statement must contain. The bill provides that the Commission may require the voter's bill of rights to be distributed with registration and other election-related materials. It requires the voter's bill of rights to be posted on the State's Internet elections website. The bill requires the Secretary of State to request Indiana news media to include a copy of the voter's bill of rights as part of election coverage or in public service announcements before an election. The bill also requires the voter's bill of rights to be posted in every precinct polling place on each election day.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The bill as amended requires the Election Commission to prescribe the Voter's Bill of Rights. The Commission may require copies of the Voter's Bill of Rights to be distributed with voter registration materials or other materials given to voters. It is estimated that the printing and distribution costs of the Voter's Bill of Rights could be absorbed in the FY 2002 budget year. However, the Commission may require additional funds in future budget years for this provision. Posting of the Voter's Bill of Rights on the web site of the Secretary of State or other State web sites is expected to generate no additional cost to the State.

The Secretary of State would also be required to request the Indiana news media to include a copy of the Voter's Bill of Rights in a public service announcement (PSA). Production of a minimal PSA is estimated in a range of \$500 to \$600. A minimal PSA could include still frames with a background narrator or voice over. An upper end PSA requiring camera time with an actor or actress, animated logos, lighting, and editing would require additional expenditures. It is estimated that production of an upper end PSA could require expenditures ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The County Election Board would have increased expenditures for the purchase of signs and printing of the required text as provided by the bill. Each polling place would be required to have a sign with the required text posted. Currently, there are 5,530 precincts in the State. Larger counties (e.g., Marion County with 917 precincts) provide a single polling place for more than one precinct, such as within a school. The impact would be the cost of producing a sign for every polling place in all 92 counties. These expenses would be paid for out of the county general fund.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Office of the Secretary of State, Indiana Election Commission.

Local Agencies Affected: County Election Boards.

Information Sources: Spencer Valentine, Co-Director, Indiana Election Division, (317) 232-3939; Jamie Berns, Production Manager, WXIN 59, (317) 632-5900.